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1. In late 1953 the Russian authorities requested the East German Academy for Agricultural Sciences to increase substantially the scope of research on *Leptinotarsa decemlineata* (potato beetle). The order was given in secret, and it was requested that it be carried out under sharp security precautions.
2. As a result of the Russian request, the Academy for Agricultural Sciences decided in early February 1954 to build a new institute for research on and protection against the potato beetle. After coordination with the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Dr. F. P. Mueller was selected as head of the new institute. Dr. Mueller, an entomologist, is now the head of the Zoological Department of the Institute for Phytopathology, Naumburg, of the Biological Central Office of the East German Academy for Agricultural Sciences.
3. The location of the new institute has not yet been definitely decided. According to present but tentative plans it is to be established in Muehlhausen, Thuringia.

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